



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2005

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. Tom Cady (HC-V) made a motion to accept the November meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Harvey Klein (GSL) stated concern over whether NJ certified labs that are operated out of residences are being closely monitored for issues such as waste disposal. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that he believes any concerns should be reported to the local municipality.

Laura Vancho (NJAW) asked when a lab could drop certification in a method. Joe Aiello answered that a lab can drop certification at any time by sending a letter to the department with the method information including the parameter code and that the effective date will be the date of the letter.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the makeup WP study shipped on December 5, 2005. Labs need to call her within 72 hours of receipt to report broken or missing samples. Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if there was much breakage. Ms. Werner stated that there weren't very many reported incidents, but labs tend to procrastinate in reporting the breakage and then run the risk of not receiving an additional sample in time to analyze it. The ship time from Colorado is two days. Carol Conklin (OCUA) asked if the complete set of metals PT samples that includes mercury and hexavalent chromium was necessary to be sent if only one vial for a different metal analysis was needed. Terrie McIntyre (Merck) stated that her lab was receiving the hexavalent chromium sample as an extra sample and that disposal of this sample needed to be arranged. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) requested that Rachel Werner speak to the ERA representative and determine if there was a way to arrange for partial shipment of the PT samples in some cases.

Ms. Werner reported that the SHW study ends at 12:00 PM on December 8, 2005. Ms. Werner reports that ERA posts their results on their website at 12:01 and that no late test results can be accepted. Ms. Werner reports that ERA has a drop down parameter code list for electronic reporting. She reports that when reporting on paper you can list the parameter code in the method description or method code box.

Ms. Werner reports that checks are due now for the January WS-PT study. If the checks are not received by Monday, December 12, 2005, the sample will ship late. The ship date is January 16, 2006. Pre-study letters will be sent out for this study about one week ahead.

NELAC Update: No Report

INELA Update: Dave Speis (Accutest) reports that there will be a combined INELA/NELAC meeting in Chicago from 1/30/06-2/3/2006. He reports that more information can be obtained at the website www.inela.org. Mr. Speis informed the committee that INELA was close to finalizing the use of ISO standards.

NJQL's: Dave Speis (Accutest) stated his concern that equating a lower value on an MDL study with better laboratory data generation from any lab was not correct. Harvey Klein (GSL) reviewed the points from the NJQL proposed rule for compliance with NJQL reporting. He stated that 1) a lab can report data if their MDL is equal to 1/5 of the NJQL, 2) a lab can report data if the lowest calibration point of their curve is less than or equal to the NJQL and 3) a lab can report data if their data shows that the LOQ is less than or equal to the NJQL when using a DSAM that has a calibration curve specified by an instrument manufacturer that requires zero (0) and one point. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that programs are not mandated to adopt any NJQL. He stated that the reporting of NJQLs may be needed every year or may not change until needed. Dave Speis, Chair of the NJQL subcommittee, asked for volunteers to serve on the NJQL subcommittee. He requests that interested individuals contact him.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): No report

Communications and OQA Website: Harvey Klein (GSL) requested that the website be updated with current ELAC meeting minutes and the meeting date list for 2006.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water / PWTa: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) informed the committee that there is another roundtable tentatively scheduled for January 20th, 2006. Laura Vancho (NJAW) asked about the reason for letters requesting the resubmittal of 2004 nitrate data. Linda Bonnette stated that Karen Fell had informed her that approximately 800 letters went out requesting missing data for problems related to the database transfer into SDWIS. Laura Vancho asked if violations would be issued if the data were not reported. Ms. Bonnette did not know if violations would be issued.

John Shevlin (NJDEP-BSDW) spoke about the on-line data entry with the new database. He believed that the form for data entry would be Excel spreadsheets that are uploaded onto the web portal. Mr. Shevlin informed the committee that perchlorate has been added to drinking water parameters. The limit will be 5 ppb using EPA Method 314 (Perchlorate by Ion Chromatography). It will be required in all 21 counties under the PWTa. Labs who are interested in the UCMR monitoring of perchlorate should contact the bureau. Labs need EPA approval in addition to New Jersey certification in order to participate. Debra Hammond (NJDEP-WQSA) stated that perchlorate analysis would also be included in the GW rules. There would be a 6-month implementation period.

Mr. Shevlin stated that arsenic testing would be added to the required testing in Sussex and Warren counties. He also informed the committee that the flushing times for lead sample collection will be 5 minutes at sampling points and 2 minutes at the holding tank.

Site Remediation: Site Remediation issues were discussed with the Groundwater Quality Standard. Debra Hammond (NJDEP-WQSA) stated she would try to arrange for an individual from Site Remediation to attend the January meeting.

New Business

NJ Groundwater Quality Standard: Debra Hammond (NJDEP-WQSA) informed the committee that the new Groundwater Quality Criteria released on November 7th, 2005 only applies to new sites. Existing sites that have a remedial action work plan will continue to apply the old standards. Ms. Hammond stated that Brownfield sites are only affected if there is an order of magnitude change in the new PQL. Ms. Hammond stated that 31 constituents now have a PQL which is greater than the health based criterion. She stated that the source of the data supporting the new PQLs is listed in the Basis and Background document of the GWQS.

Tom Cady (HC-V) stated that case managers are attempting to apply the new standards to current sites and that this is holding up closing those sites. He stated that laboratories and case managers need in-house guidance concerning the current sites. Debra Hammond stated that site specific PQLs could be utilized if necessary. Mary Ann Kuserk (NJDEP-SRWMP) stated that the case manager should contact her if there is no resolution.

Tom Cady stated that the PQLs for two compounds are only achievable by drinking water methods. He did not believe that drinking water methods could be applied to ground water samples. Harvey Klein (GSL) stated that only 4 New Jersey certified labs are certified for hexachlorobenzene by EPA method 505 and one in-state lab is certified for pentachlorophenol by EPA method 515.3.

Debra Hammond stated that groundwater samples could be tested with drinking water methods. Joe Aiello (OQA) agreed with that statement. Dave Speis (Accutest) stated that he believed the SW846 methods were to be used for groundwater samples and that drinking methods were unacceptable. Dave Speis stated that labs should have been notified that drinking water methods were acceptable to use for groundwater. He believes that better communication is needed.

Harvey Klein (GSL) stated that one problem is that the new criteria can only be met with methods in which only a few laboratories hold certification and those labs are not performing site remediation work. Another problem is that these PQLs were developed using methods not currently used by a majority of the laboratory community.

Tom Greci (ECM) stated that the negative aspects of using GC/HPLC for regulatory work is the occurrence of false positives. He stated that you can confirm compounds with GC/MS. Dave Speis stated the problem with using drinking water methods for groundwater samples is the occurrence of matrix interferences.

Harvey Klein stated there is need for information and discussion on how the laboratory community will proceed. He requested that Carl Armbruster (STL) chair a subcommittee on Site Remediation – Field Sampling Guide issues.

Tom Cady asked how soon these new certifications can be obtained. Carl Armbruster asked if 8270C GC/MS SIM (Single Ion Monitoring) can be certified for PAHs in order to reach the required PQL in one step. The alternative is to utilize an additional HPLC method. Joe Aiello could not give them a definitive answer at this meeting.

Michael Lordson (Aqua Pro Tech) asked if compounds that have been removed from the ground water criteria on the new criteria list need to be analyzed. Debra Hammond stated that the interim generic criteria would still apply to those compounds.

2005 Field Sampling Manual: Joe Sanguiliano (NJDEP-ODQ) stated that reviewers of data follow what the case manager has approved and the method utilized. They do not refer to the field manual when performing their evaluation of data submitted.

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Joe Aiello (NJDEP) stated that many options have been reviewed in an attempt to fairly distribute the budget increase that is needed. He stated that the number of New Jersey certified labs has declined while the current budget of approximately \$900,000 needs to increase to \$2,300,000. There are about 20 out-of-state labs that are not currently being charged travel time for inspections. He stated that he will attempt have a proposal ready in 3-6 months. There will be a comment period for this proposal.

Nominations for ELAC Secretary 2006-2007: Tom Cady (HC-V) accepted the nomination for ELAC Secretary. Carl Armbruster (STL) made a motion that the nominations be closed.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on January 8, 2005 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

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